

Message Text

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FOR TODMAN FROM STEDMAN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: N.Y. TIMES EDITORIAL ON CHILE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT N.Y. TIMES EDITORIAL, AUGUST 16,
QUOTE:

PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AND THE HINTS
OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC PRESSURE TO BACK IT UP APPEAR TO
BE GETTING SOME RESULTS IN CHILE, ONE OF THE MOST
REPRESSIVE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA. LAST MONTH, THE
HEAD OF CHILE'S RULING JUNTA, PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET,
OUTLINED A PROGRAM FOR A SLOW, NOT TO SAY GLACIAL, END
TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF MILITARY RULE. LAST WEEKEND,
WHILE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE TODMAN WAS IN SANTIAGO,
THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA), THE POWERFUL
SECRET POLICE AGENCY, RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING AND TOR-
TURING POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF THE PINOCHET REGIME. IT
IS TO BE REPLACED BY AN AGENCY WHICH WILL APPARENTLY
HAVE NO POWERS OF ARREST.

UNDER THE PINOCHET POLITICAL PROGRAM, CHILEANS WILL NOT

ELECT THEIR OWN LEGISLATURE UNTIL 1985. BUT AT LEAST
THE PRINCIPLE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONCEDED, AND IT IS

CONCEIVABLE THAT FURTHER PRESSURE, BOTH FROM OUTSIDE
AND INSIDE CHILE, WILL SPEED UP THE TIMETABLE FOR
RETURNING POWER TO THE CHILEAN PEOPLE. UNQUOTE
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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